



ON STAGE . . . Tom Lowry as the butler, Fifi D'Orsay as Aunt Alicia, and Kirby Gangel in the title role, strike a scene from "Gigi," popular production now showing week ends at the Chapel Theatre in Walleria.

Every Night Like Opening for 'Gigi'

By BETTY SCHROEDER
Every night is like opening night at the Chapel Theatre in Torrance.

Cast and crew of "Gigi," currently showing at Chapel located at 4164 Pacific Coast Hwy., in Smith Bros. Fish Shanty shopping center, have not lost any of the excitement of opening night. Probably the main reason is that Fifi D'Orsay, starring in the role of Aunt Alicia, keeps everyone on his toes with her unceasing abundance of energy.

So impressed is Miss D'Orsay with Chapel Theatre that she is a one-woman campaign for the theater. Whenever she appears, fans give Miss D'Orsay a sincere and enthusiastic pitch about the merits of Chapel Theatre, and the excellent entertainment offered the area.

She is truly amazed that everyone connected with Chapel Theatre is unpaid, and the theater operates on a non-profit basis, and does not hesitate to commend all concerned.

THIS IS what makes Fifi D'Orsay the gracious and warm person that she is, and the reason the cast and crew of "Gigi" is full of excitement and feels gratified for being able to work with this Hollywood celebrity.

Miss D'Orsay is always ready to give each person in the cast a helping hand, suggesting (in an almost apologetic manner) what always proves to be most helpful advice. Thus, with her vast knowledge of show business, Miss D'Orsay's assistance is always taken in

the manner in which it is given—with warm understanding.

IT IS clearly evident, in the performances that each actor presents his particular character, that each is having a wonderful time in this lively French comedy. Kirby Gangel of Manhattan Beach gives a lovable impish characterization of Gigi as she sprawls and lounges over the furniture, before she begins maturing into a young lady. Gladys Manu of Wilmington, is a natural as the calm and stabilizing factor of this French family, and Suzanne Shinder, of Torrance, steals the scenes as the flighty, stage-struck mother of Gigi. Wayne Ward of Manhattan Beach, presents a most dashing version of the Frenchman Gaston who, seeing Gigi ma-

ture into a young woman, decides to stop playing childish games and begins to observe Gigi in a new light. Charline French of Torrance, is a most refreshing and effervescent French-type maid; while Tom Lowry of Los Angeles, is quite humorous in his manner of tolerating his employer, who is Aunt Alicia, played by the incomparable Fifi D'Orsay.

THE DIALOGUE is full of amusing, yet philosophical repartee, which keeps the action at a fast clip, bringing the play to an end all too soon. One of the most amusing scenes takes place in Aunt Alicia's boudoir when Gaston comes to call, and Aunt Alicia comes to terms with him regarding Gigi's future. Such clever maneuvering on the part of the aunt is all

too clearly seen by the amused audience, although Gaston is not aware of what is going on, as Miss D'Orsay has him quite befuddled.

Very much in demand are the "Can Can" girls, who greet the male arrivals at the theater with exuberance by running with arms outstretched, to all but bowl them over with large kisses planted on unsuspecting cheeks! During coffee break intermission, the girls are again in evidence wearing their red velvet costumes and hats, to entertain the theater patrons with the well-known "Can Can" dance on the veranda of the theater. The group consists of Peggy Bean, Terry Masonheimer, Barbara and Judy Simonson, and Sharon Wickstrom presented by Barbara's School of Dance, Redondo Beach. Incidentally,

the hostesses, whose double duty is to usher and serve coffee, are also in Can Can costumes.

ADDING MUCH charming atmosphere to the auditorium of the theater, is the exhibit of portraits created by John Vincent Mason. These paintings will adorn the walls of the theater during the entire presentation of "Gigi," and have been the subject of much favorable comment by all audiences. Mason, designer of murals, interiors, and paintings, has received many awards and had four one-man shows in the Los Angeles area. He currently conducts private classes in drawing and painting in Palos Verdes Plaza.

"Gigi" will be presented Friday through Sunday, curtain time being 8:30 p.m. for the next two weekends.

46th A.D. Republicans Schedule Monday Session

The 46th Assembly District Republican Central Committee announces that its first 1962 Co-ordinating Committee meeting will be held Monday, at the Pen and Quill Restaurant in Manhattan Beach. The 8 o'clock business meeting will be preceded by a "get-acquainted coffee starting at 7:30.

Invitations to the meeting have been extended to all Central Committee members and alternates, Republican club officers, and members of the local precinct organization. The meeting is open to the public, and all other interested Republicans are invited to attend.

Guest speaker will be Don C. Frey, executive director of Republican Associates of Los Angeles County and research director for the Republican State Central Committee.

Frey will speak on the issues of the coming statewide campaign. He will also distribute literature of interest to pre-

dict workers, legislative committees, and study groups.

ALSO SCHEDULED for the program are brief reports from the club presidents, outlining their groups' activities and future programs; a short publicity clinic dealing with club newsletter and press release problems, and a brief address by T. W. "Si" Simons, 28th Congressional District Central Committee chairman. Arrangements for the meeting are under the direction of the 46th A.D. GOP Public Relations Committee, whose members will also serve as hostesses. Included are Mmes. John K. Townsend (El Segundo), public relations committee chairman; Hank Adams (Redondo Beach); Robert L. Thatcher (Portuguese Bend), and Miss Irene Robbins (Playa del Rey).

Further information regarding the meeting may be obtained by calling Mrs. Townsend, EA 2-1505, or Mrs. Adams, FR 5-8674.

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